

REMARKS

Status of the claims:

With the above amendments, claims 13 to 23 have been added. Claims 1 and 3-23 are pending and ready for further action on the merits. No new matter has been added by way of the above amendments. Claim 13 is a modification of claim 1. Claims 14-23 are the same as claims 3-12 but are dependent from claim 13. Entry of the amendments and reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Response of January 16, 2004

The instant document is a supplemental response to the response filed January 16, 2004. All of the rejections from the Office Action of October 22, 2003 were addressed in that response and are not further addressed here. Applicants believe that the newly added claims 13-23 would require no further search or consideration as they are only minor variations on previously presented claims 1 and 3-12. Entry of these claims is respectfully requested.

With the above remarks and amendments, Applicants believe that the claims, as they now stand, define patentable subject matter such that passage of the instant invention to allowance is warranted. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, T. Benjamin Schroeder (Reg. No. 50,990), in the Washington metropolitan area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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